

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**Singer Michael Jackson divorcing second wife**

LOS ANGELES (AP)— After three years of marriage and two children, Michael Jackson and his second wife filed for divorce, a spokesman said.

The couple "mutually agreed to end their marriage," Howard J. Rubenstein said. "Michael and Debbie remain friends, and they ask the public respect their desire not to further comment or speculate upon the reasons for their decision."

He declined to provide other details. Neither Jackson, 41, nor his wife, Debbie Rowe Jackson, would be making any statements, he said. Divorce papers were filed today in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Jackson married his wife, who was a nurse for one of his doctors, in November 1996, the same year he and Lisa Marie Presley, daughter of Elvis Presley, ended their two-year marriage. Mrs. Jackson was seven months pregnant when they wed.

At the time, Jackson said: "Debbie and I love each other for all the things you'll never see on stage or in pictures. ... I fell for the beautiful, unpretentious, giving person that she is, and she fell for me just being me."

The couple have two children: Paris Michael Katherine, born in April 1998, and Prince, born in February 1997.

**Author pays \$42,100 for lunch with Oprah**

DALLAS (AP) — Science fiction author James L. Halperin wanted lunch with Oprah Winfrey, and the publicity, so bad, that he paid \$42,100 for the honor.

Halperin submitted the winning bid during a recent online auction to raise money for disaster victims through Oprah's Angel Network.

Halperin topped 84 other bidders. He also paid \$10,100 for a pair of backstage passes to Winfrey's TV show and \$6,550 more to attend a yoga class with the talk show host.

"Every novelist wants to meet Oprah," he said.

Through a feature on her show called Oprah's Book Club, Winfrey every month recommends books to her audience, and Halperin hopes he can convince her to read one of his books, either "The First Immortal" or "The Truth Machine."

A date for the lunch has not been set.

**Vibraphonist Milt Jackson dead at 76**

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

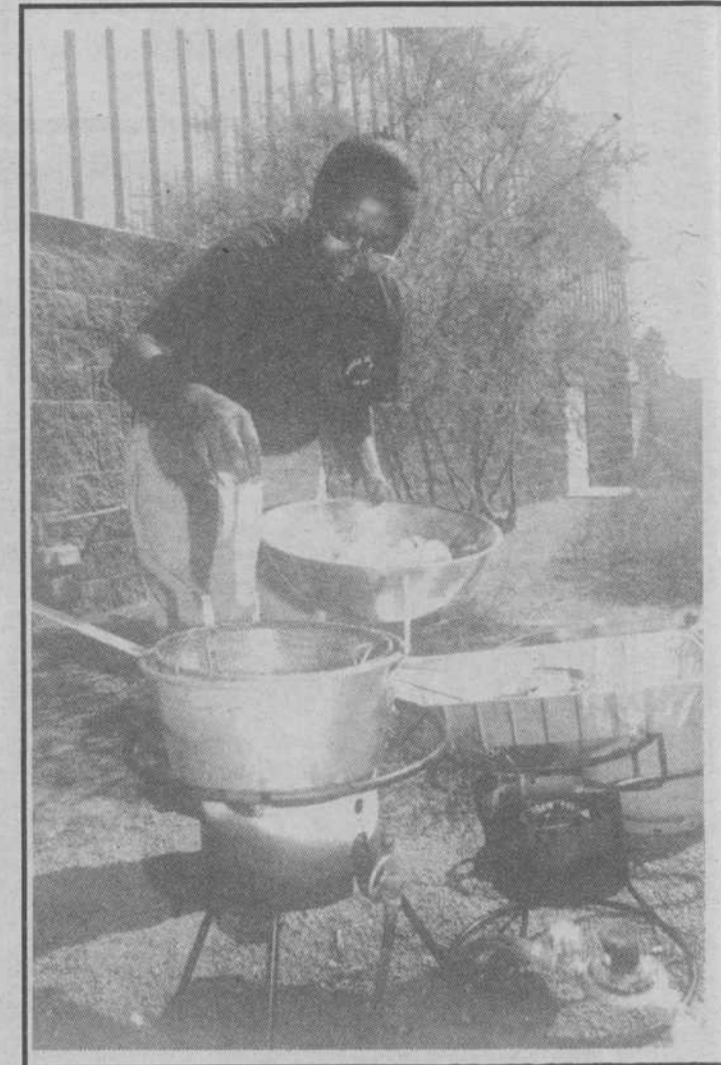
Milt Jackson, the master jazz vibraphonist and improviser who worked with such greats as Thelonious Monk, John Coltrane, Ray Charles, Count Basie and Oscar Peterson, died at New York City's St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital. The musician, who made his home in Teaneck, New Jersey, had been suffering from liver cancer. He was 76.

The Detroit-born player, who possessed perfect pitch, picked up the vibraphone when he was 16. He had taught himself guitar when he was 7, learned the piano when he was 11, and become the master several other instruments. Jackson made his professional debut singing in a local gospel troupe, but his big break occurred following his high school years and his tour of duty in the Army.

While visiting Detroit in 1945, Dizzy Gillespie caught Jackson and his own young jazz quartet. The elder musicians asked Jackson to join his band in New York. Jackson went on to record the be-bop classics "A Night In Tunisia," "Anthropology" and "Two Bass Hit" as a member of Gillespie's orchestra.

The vibraphonist's famed, horn-like playing was the result of his having set his instrument's oscillator to a speed that was one-third of the setting speed employed by reigning vibe king Lionel Hampton.

Eventually Jackson struck out on his own, accompanied by members of his former bandleader's rhythm section,



fronting the Milt Jackson Quartet. In 1952, Jackson and Gillespie's pianist John Lewis created the Modern Jazz Quartet, which featured drummer Kenny Clarke and bassist Percy Heath.

Suited up in coats and ties, armed with impenetrable poise, the group aimed to reinstate what they perceived as jazz's lost majesty, which they claimed had been partially jettisoned due to the genre's increasing reliance on improvisation. Beginning in 1956, the Quartet spent 20 years making albums for Atlantic Records. Jackson disbanded the quartet in 1974, but the band would reunite sporadically throughout the '80s; its final performance took place in 1995.

In 1992, Jackson began to record a string of records for Quincy Jones' Quest label. The 1999-released Explosive! became the final title in this series.

The same year, Telarc issued The Very Tall Band, Jackson's collaboration with Ray Brown, with whom he had played during the Gillespie-Milt Jackson Quartet years, and Oscar Peterson.

**Regional art contest scheduled for Utah**

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

Visual artists residing in Utah, Arizona, and Nevada have an opportunity to compete for honors and cash awards in the 3rd annual "The Regional" art competition in St. George, Utah on Oct. 29.

The St. George Art Museum, located at 86 S. Main, will be the site for the art exhibition from 6-9 p.m.

There is a \$15 charge to submit one-to-three original works that have not been on display at the St. George Museum. All pieces must be framed and/or fully

assembled for the show and no art work submitted and approved will be withdrawn regardless of reasons or circumstances.

University of Arizona Museum of Art's Acting Chief Curator Dr. Peter S. Briggs, who received his Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico in art history, will be the guest juror.

Briggs majored in Pre-Colombian/Native American Art and has served as curator at many fine art institutions.

For more information please call (435) 634-5942.

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